

Noné Chinery Redmond

HANDWOVEN FABRICS & CLOTHING DESIGN

5931 Wymore Way
Sacramento, CA 95822
916-422-9048

September 18, 1999

Food and Drug Administration
HF 1, 5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville
MD 20857

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On September 17th the Sacramento Bee reported on the destruction of genetically engineered crops at the Davis campus of the University of California. It does not surprise me that such desperate measures have been employed. These experimental processes cross the boundaries between animals, plants and humans. Some tomatoes contain the DNA of fish, some potatoes contain pesticides which pollute the entire vegetable. Not enough is yet known to foretell exactly what undesirable effects these experiments may cause people, but there have already been some who have experienced fatal allergic reactions to the toxins which have been introduced into their food. And monarch butterflies are reported dying after eating the pollen from genetically engineered plants.

The manufacture of engineered seeds introduces into our foods, genes which inhibit attack from pests as well as a doomsday gene which threatens the diversity of the global seedbank. Plant pests will rapidly evolve to become resistant to this toxin while we continue to take it into our bodies threatening our immune system. Like the mad cow disease where sick dead animal products were fed to healthy cows which were then fed to us, we are laying ourselves open to a Pandora's boxful of troubles.

We have been warned by our experience. We are also told by 100 of the leading United States environmental scientists that genetic engineering's "imprudent or careless use could lead to irreversible, devastating damage in the ecology of the planet." For some time in Europe citizens have been protesting the import of American foods which have been the result of genetic engineering. But unfortunately our government has not insisted on testing these genetically engineered foods for their safety when consumed by human beings, nor has it demanded that these contaminated foods be labelled so that we can avoid them.

While growing and eating these foods is so hazardous to our health and environment, why is government testing not being done? At the very least, the foods containing these substances should be labeled by the Food and Drug administration as genetically engineered and possibly liable to cause allergic reactions and a build up of toxic pesticide residue in our bodies.

Sincerely

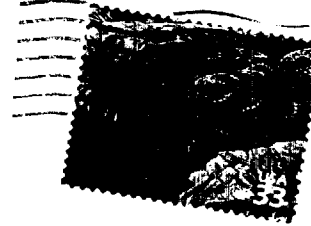
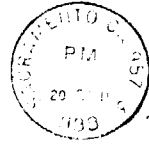
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The Commissioner
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